

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title, Abstract, claims 1, 4-11 and 17-19 are amended; claims 2 and 3 are canceled; and claims 20-34 are withdrawn. The features of canceled claims 2 and 3 are incorporated into independent claims 1, 11 and 17-19. No new matter is added.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for informalities. In response, a new Abstract is amended to remove the terms "invention" and "comprises." Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. In response, the title of the invention is amended to clearly describe the invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, claims 1 and 4-10 are amended to recite, "the imaging processing method utilizing a computer," and independent claim 19 is amended to recite, "utilizing a computer to perform the steps of," thereby tying the method to a machine (i.e., computer) that accomplishes the method steps. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being allegedly not directed to statutory subject matter. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, independent claim 17 is amended to recite, "a computer-readable storage medium storing an image processing program." Because amended independent claim 17 now recites, "a computer-readable storage medium" satisfying the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101,

as suggested by the Examiner on page 7 of the Office Action, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 11, 13-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,177,469 to Kagawa, and rejects claims 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagawa. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, and amended independent claims 11 and 17-19 similarly recite, "making a first decision of deciding said first plurality of feature colors in accordance with the extent of appearance of said first plurality of colors, and making a second decision of deciding said second plurality of feature colors in accordance with the extent of appearance of said second plurality of colors."

Kagawa discloses a color conversion device for performing color conversion on first image data consisting of a plurality of first color data and constituting image information for each pixel into second image data consisting of a plurality of second color data, and constituting image information for each pixel. (See Kagawa's col. 1, lines 58-67 and Fig. 1.)

However, Kagawa fails to disclose or suggest making a first decision of deciding said first plurality of feature colors in accordance with the extent of appearance of said first plurality of colors, and making a second decision of deciding said second plurality of feature colors in accordance with the extent of appearance of said second plurality of colors. Rather, Kagawa discloses adding second color correction amounts (determined from characteristics of the first image data) to the first image data to determine the second image data. In Kagawa, the second image is determined based on corrections to the first image rather than making a second decision of deciding said second plurality of features in accordance with extent of appearance of said second plurality of colors, as recited in amended independent claim 1, and similarly recited in amended independent claims 11 and 17-19.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Substitute Abstract

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